

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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DRAFTED BY: NEA:AEGRIFFIN

APPROVED BY: NEA:AEGRIFFIN

S/S- MR SEBASTIAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 295005

NODIS

FOL TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE FROM DAMASCUS DTD 02 DEC 1976 QTE

S E C R E T DAMASCUS 8287

NODIS

FOR SECRETARY FROM MURPHY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE, US

SUBJECT: SOUTHERN LEBANON

REF: STATE 292957

1. MADE POINTS REFTTEL TO KHADDAM'S PRIVATE SECRETARY 1200L
DECEMBER 2. HE WILL TRANSMIT THEM TO FONMIN AND ALSO GET
COPY TO PRESIDENCY TODAY.

2. KHAASSAM STILL IN HOSPITAL FOLLOWING ASSASSINATION
ATTEMPT YESTERDAY. PRIVATE SECRETARY CONFIRMED THAT
KHAASSAM WOUND RELATIVELY LIGHT AND THAT HE SHOULD BE
SHORTLY RELEASED FROM HOSPITAL.

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COMMENT:

IN LIGHT SARKIS' REACTION THAT HE CANNOT FIELD A SUBSTANTIAL ENOUGH LEBANESE FORCE IN IMMEDIATE FUTURE, WE SEEM TO BE AT NEW IMPASSE. IT SEEMS HIGHLY DESIRABLE TO SHUT DOWN TYRE PORT ASAP AND INTERDICT USE OF NABATIYAH AIRSTRIP AS WELL. A PACKAGE SECURITY PROPOSAL UTILIZING LEBANESE POLICE/GENDARMERIE TOGETHER WITH NON-SYRIAN ELEMENTS OF THE ASF, AN INTENSIFIED NAVAL BLOCKAGE OF TYRE, SAIQA AND SYRIAN-CONTROLLED ELEMENTS OF PALESTINIAN LIBERATION ARMY MIGHT MANAGE THIS. THESE, I SUBMIT WOULD BE ILL-COORDINATED, HALF MEASURES COMPARED WITH A (MILITARILY) RELATIVELY UNCOMPLICATED OPERATION OF DEPLOYING SYRIAN FORCES INTO TYRE AND NABATIYAH TO CLOSE DOWN FEDAYEEN OPERATIONS IN THOSE TWO POINTS. BUT IT MIGHT BE WORTHWHILE EXPLORING THE IDEA OF SUCH A PACKAGE WITH SARKIS AND THE ISRAELIS.

4. THE SYRIANS ARE NOT PRESENTLY PUSHING TO BE ALLOWED TO DEPLOY THEIR OWN FORCES. THIS MAY REFLECT THEIR UNWILLINGNESS TO BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR DEVELOPMENTS WHICH THEY COULD NOT CONTROL LIKE FURTHER SMALL SCALE CROSS BORDER FIRING SUCH AS STRUCK NAHARIYAH NOVEMBER 21.

5. IN ANY CASE, DANGER IN DELAYING DEPLOYMENT TO SOUTH, IT SEEMS TO ME, IS THAT PALESTINIANS MAY TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS PERIOD TO LUANCH LARGER SCALE ACTION OR AT LEAST ENTRENCH THEMSELVES DEEPER AND MAKE THEIR EVENTUAL NEUTRALIZATION THAT MUCH BLOODIER FOR SARKIS AND SYRIA TO ACCOMPLISH. I HOPE WE CAN SOON CONVINCE THE ISRAELIS TO SANCTION ASF ENTRY INTO AT LEAST TYRE IF NOT NABATIYAH.

6. SUGGEST PASS BEIRUT AND TEL AVIV.
MURPHY UNQTE KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TROOP DEPLOYMENT, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, CAT-A, MILITARY OCCUPIED AREAS, INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING FORCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE295005
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NEA:AEGRIFIN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: N760009-0039
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 2
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761274/aaaacuj.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 76 STATE 292957
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 JUN 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <07 OCT 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: LOCK1
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOUTHERN LEBANON
TAGS: PFOR, PDEV, MOPS, SY, LE, US, (SARKIS, ELIAS)
To: BEIRUT TEL AVIV
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006